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ORIGINAL

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 9, 2003

Mr. Bryant L. VanBrakle
Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20573

Dear Commissioner VanBrakle,

I'm writing to share my support for United Parcel Service's (UPS) petition pending before the Federal Maritime Commission for an exemption from the prohibition on Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs) from entering into confidential contracts with their customers.

The state of the U.S. ocean shipping industry has changed dramatically since passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act revisions of 1998. There has been unprecedented consolidation among ocean carriers resulting in the loss of major U.S. flagged carriers. These carriers, in an effort to offer a full range of services, have created vertically integrated logistics companies that now compete with NVOCCs.

While anticipating dramatic changes in the ocean shipping industry with the passage of OSRA, Congress did not contemplate how fast or how smoothly the market could adapt to these changes. By granting this petition, the Federal Maritime Commission will acknowledge these changes level the playing field between NVOCCs and vessel operators, and ultimately benefit ocean shipping customers around the world.

I ask that the Federal Maritime Commission give UPS's petition all due consideration when reviewing this matter.

Best regards,


Greg Walden
Member of Congress

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P3-03

U.S. House of Representatives

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PLEASE DELIVER TO: Mr. Van Brackle

FAX NUMBER: 202-523-5738

DATE: _____

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